

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2005. The Action indicated that claims 1-18 are currently pending with each of the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent 6,011,936 (hereinafter Kaneko).

Kaneko discloses a method of recovering media sheets from a jammed image forming apparatus. The location of the media sheets is determined by one or more sensors positioned along the media path and an encoder or internal clock associated with the driving motor. The position is detected each time the sheet moves through a sensor, and intermediate positions are calculated based on the encoder or clock pulses and the time since moving past the last sensor. The location of the media sheets are tracked as they move along the media path and a jam is detected when the media sheet does not reach one of the sensors within a preset count. At the time of the jam, an optimum stop position of the sheet is determined to more easily remove the sheet from the apparatus. After detecting the jam and determining the location of the media sheet, the media sheet is then moved along the media path until it reaches the optimum stop position. At this point, the driving motor stops and the sheet is deposited at the optimum position (Col. 8, lines 23-36). This system is intended to prevent sheets from being stopped along the media path at a position between two removable units. If a sheet is between units and one of the units is removed from the apparatus, the jammed sheet will be torn (Col. 1, lines 25-29).

Claims 1-6 are directed to an embodiment of the present invention clearing a jam from an image forming device. The method comprises tracking the location of the media sheet as it moves through the media path. A jam is then detected when the media sheet does not reach a predetermined point on the media path at a predetermined limit. At the time the jam is detected, the movement of the media sheet is stopped (i.e., the sheet is not moved forward or backward along the media path). Because the media sheet may be stopped at any point along the media path, access may be difficult. After jam detection, a plurality of access points are determined to

access the sheet in a least damaging and ergonomically correct manner. Claim 1 has been amended to now include the step of stopping the movement of the media sheet upon detecting a jam. Kaneko discloses detecting a jam and then moving the sheet to an optimum removal location which may damage the media sheet or image forming device. Because claim 1 has been amended to now include that the media sheet is stopped at the time of jam detection, these claims are not anticipated.

Claims 7-10 have been amended to also include the step of stopping movement of the media sheets at the time a jam is detecting. For the reasons stated above, claims 7-10 are not anticipated by Kaneko.

Claim 14 has been amended to now include that the controller stores statistical information indicating the likely location for media jams. When a jam is detected, the section where each of the sheets is located is determined, and the statistical information is used to determine where along the section of the sheet is located. Kaneko discloses tracking the position of the sheets by one or more sensors positioned along the media path and an encoder or internal clock associated with the driving motor. Therefore, claim 14, and dependent claims 15-16 are not anticipated by Kaneko.

Claims 11-13 and 17-18 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The Applicants submit that this Amendment places this case in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, we request a telephone conference to expedite allowance and issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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